

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the final Office Action dated February 1, 2007. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-7, 10, 12-18, 21, 23-28 and 30 remained pending in the application. By this Amendment, applicants have amended claims 2-5, 10, 13-16, 21, 24-26 and 30. Claims 46-61 have been added. Claims 1, 12 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-7, 10, 13-18, 21, 24-28, 30 and 46-61 are pending.

The Examiner indicated that claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are allowed. Accordingly, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the present application to issuance of a patent, applicants have amended claims 2-5, 10, 13-16, 21, 24-26 and 30 to depend on either allowed claim 6, 17 or 27. Claims 1, 12 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, because claims 4, 10, 15, 21, 25 and 30 depend from claims 6, 17 and 27, these claims are understood to be in allowable form for at least the same reasons as claims 6, 17 and 27.

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Additionally, claims 1, 12 and 23 were previously acknowledged as generic. Applicants submit that allowable claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are also generic. Therefore, because withdrawn claims 2, 3, 5, 13, 14, 16, 24 and 26 depend from claims 6, 17 and 27, these withdrawn claims should be considered and allowed for at least the same reasons as claims 6, 17 and 27.

Turning to new claims 46-61, although this is a final office action, Applicant submits that these new dependent claims correspond to dependent claims already considered, and therefore should be entered. For instance, new claims 46-50 correspond to claims 2-5 and 10, respectively, except that claims 46-50 depend on claim 7, instead of claim 6. New claims 51-55 correspond to claims 13-16 and 21, respectively, except that the former depend on claim 18, instead of claim 17. New claims 57-60 correspond to claims 24-26 and 30, respectively, except that claims 57-60 depend on claim 28, instead of claim 27. Finally, new claims 56 and 61 merely add the random probability distribution limitation, which is already recited in claims 2 and 13, to claims 28 and 27, respectively.

Furthermore, because new claims 46-60 depend on previously allowed claims 7, 18 and 28, these new claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claim 61 depends on claim 27, and therefore claim 61 should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 27.

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Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner S. Fidler, Group Art Unit 2861, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on April 2, 2007.



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